

Top Secret 233

(Security Classification) 25X

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday August 14, 1976

CI NIDC 76-191C

DIA review(s) completed.

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP79T00975A029200010024-1

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday, August 14, 1976

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[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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CONTENTS

LEBANON: Aftermath of Tall Zatar Page 1

25X1

[REDACTED]

GREECE-TURKEY: The Aegean Dispute Page 3

MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIA: Machel on the Spot Page 5

ZAMBIA-RHODESIA-BOTSWANA: Guerrilla Activity Page 6

EAST - WEST GERMANY: Travel Restrictions Page 7

BANGLADESH: Dacca Appears Calm Page 8

SOUTH AFRICA: Uneasy Calm Page 9

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LEBANON: Aftermath of Tall Zatar

25X1 [] The fall of Tall Zatar touched off heavy artillery firing along Beirut's confrontation lines and may have started reprisal activity.

[]

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25X1 [] The assault came as Arab League and Red Cross negotiators were discussing evacuation plans, and Palestinian charges that the Shamunists moved under cover of a Red Cross convoy are probably true. About 12,000 people managed to get out of the camp--8,000 to the Muslim-held area of Beirut in truck convoys hastily organized by both Red Cross and Arab League forces, 3,000 to the Christian part of the city in Red Cross vehicles, and 1,000 on foot to the Muslim area.

25X1 [] Stories of atrocities committed by the Christians are widespread in Beirut. Members of one extreme leftist party, possibly in conjunction with members of Fatah, surrounded several city blocks in west Beirut yesterday and conducted a house-to-house search for Christians supposedly associated with massacres at Tall Zatar.

25X1 [] With the fall of the refugee camp, we expect the Christians to turn their attention to Palestinian strongholds in the mountains east of Beirut.

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25X1 [] The Shamunists are dead set against any kind of political compromise at the present juncture, reasoning that the probable result--the presence of armed Palestinians in Lebanon--would constitute an unstable situation that would lead to fresh fighting within two or three years. Although some leaders of the Phalanges Party are apparently more amenable to a negotiated settlement, the Shamunists are in a position to overturn any cease-fire of which they do not approve.//

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GREECE-TURKEY: The Aegean Dispute

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[] Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil, addressing the UN Security Council yesterday, accused Greece of creating a bellicose atmosphere around recent Aegean developments.

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[] Responding to Greek Foreign Minister Bitsios' earlier petition for a Council resolution calling on the Turks to suspend seismic exploration in the Aegean, Caglayangil reasserted Turkey's claimed right to conduct research in disputed portions of the Aegean and offered to renew bilateral negotiations with Greece over conflicting claims. He added that the activities of the Turkish research ship Sismik I were designed to provide Turkey with data necessary for negotiations with Greece on Aegean differences.

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[] Greece unexpectedly announced yesterday its readiness for high-level talks with Turkey on these matters. Although on the surface a hopeful sign that the two countries may be able to work out their problems peacefully, until now Athens has agreed to renew bilateral talks on the Aegean only if Ankara agrees to keep the Sismik I out of disputed waters.

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[] Not only has Ankara been cool to this idea, but bilateral talks could also be complicated by Athens' unilateral appeal to the International Court of Justice earlier this week for a ruling on the Aegean seabed controversy. The Court has scheduled a private sitting for Monday to examine the Greeks' request for an order calling on both countries to abstain from research in the Aegean and for a demarcation of the disputed seabed. A previously noted press report that all 15 Court justices had met on August 11 for preliminary discussions appears to have been in error.

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[] Turkish Minister of Power and Natural Resources Kilic announced yesterday that the Sismik I would complete its current phase of operations by tonight, replenish its supplies in Izmir beginning tomorrow, and stand by to begin the next phase of its research. It will probably put to sea again early next week, but the part of the Aegean in which it will operate has not been specified. The ship will reportedly continue its activities until the middle of next month.

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[] //Neither country appears to have changed the overall level of readiness of its armed forces since midweek, but the US defense attache in Athens reports that some combat pilots at an air base in eastern Greece were in their aircraft on cockpit alert for a short time yesterday morning.//

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[] //The attache estimates that at least half of Greece's combat aircraft are now armed and on 5- or 15-minute alert status. Based on his observation of past Greek alerts, he believes Greece has dispersed some of its fighter aircraft to Thessaloniki in northern Greece and to bases on Crete and the island of Limnos. Such a move would make it more difficult for attacking aircraft to cripple Greek air units and would increase Greek chances of delivering an effective air counter-attack.//

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[] Greek naval chief Admiral Mavrikis assured the US attache that Greek surveillance of the Sismik I continues to be low-key, despite Turkish charges of air and naval harassment.

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[redacted] Mavrikis insisted that only an unarmed Greek survey ship is conducting the surveillance, although a Turkish news film earlier this week showed a Greek warship near the Sismik I.

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[redacted] //Both Greece and Turkey issued warnings to ships and aircraft earlier this week that the exercise would take place. Athens' notification on Tuesday indicated that Turkish aircraft would stay outside the Greek-claimed 18.5-kilometer (10-mile) airspace surrounding Lesbos. The Turkish note on Thursday referred only to the 11-kilometer (6-mile) limit recognized by Turkey.//

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[redacted] //Although the exercise has been planned since at least last month, it could increase tensions in the eastern Aegean because of the increased air activity it will include and because it will rekindle the airspace controversy.// [redacted]

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MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIA: Machel on the Spot

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[redacted] The highly publicized raid by Rhodesian security forces deep into Mozambique earlier this week may compel Mozambican President Machel to consider ways to provide his country with a more effective defense.

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[redacted] The Rhodesians have reported they killed 300 guerrillas and some Mozambican troops. Mozambique said yesterday that the Rhodesians killed over 600 civilians, a figure that probably is exaggerated. The Mozambican statement seems designed to counter the publicity given the raid by the Rhodesians.

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[redacted] Mozambican forces quickly retaliated with a series of mortar attacks against the Rhodesian border town of Umtali and nearby military camps. Nevertheless, the raid points up the weakness in Mozambique's image as the key front-line African state supporting the Rhodesian insurgency.

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ZAMBIA-RHODESIA-BOTSWANA: Guerrilla Activity

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[REDACTED] //The Zambian army has begun providing direct support for Rhodesian guerrillas infiltrating northwestern Rhodesia from bases in Zambia.

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[REDACTED] //The guerrillas are probably members of Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union who have deserted guerrilla camps in Mozambique dominated by a rival faction, the Zimbabwe African National Union.//

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Although Zambian support for the guerrillas has been increasing, President Kaunda will probably restrict Zambian military involvement in the hope of avoiding Rhodesian retaliatory raids.//

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[] Rhodesian troops apparently have crossed into Botswana in search of Zambia-based guerrillas who have been entering Rhodesia through Botswanan territory. The Botswanan government announced yesterday that Rhodesian forces entered Botswana three times last week to interrogate local villagers and look for guerrillas. There were no reports of casualties. []

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EAST - WEST GERMANY: Travel Restrictions

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[] //The East Germans yesterday turned back a number of West Germans traveling to West Berlin to attend a rally protesting the anniversary of the Berlin Wall.//

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[] The actions on the transit routes followed protests by East German and Soviet officials that the projected rally violated agreements pertaining to West Berlin. The East German action violates the East - West German transit agreement; their harassment of travelers also impinges on the Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin in which the Soviets guarantee unimpeded traffic.

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[REDACTED]
the decision to turn back buses carrying the protesters will undoubtedly create problems for the coalition. The Social Democratic - Free Democratic coalition is locked in a tight electoral contest with the Christian Democrats, who are trying to derive capital from the deteriorating political situation.

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[REDACTED] Anticipating a reaction from the East Germans, the Schmidt government had earlier tried to persuade the Christian Democratic sponsors of the rally to tone down their demonstration in West Berlin.

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[REDACTED] The traffic halts on the transit routes are the first since mid-1974, when East Berlin protested the establishment of a federal environmental office in West Berlin. The harassment is probably only temporary. [REDACTED]

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BANGLADESH: Dacca Appears Calm

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[REDACTED] Dacca appears calm on the eve of the first anniversary of the assassination of former president Mujibur Rahman and the overthrow of his government.

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[REDACTED] Rumors continue to circulate in the capital, however, that a coup or demonstrations will be attempted tomorrow against the administration of General Zia ur-Rahman. We have no good evidence of coup plotting or of plans for disorders, but there is no shortage of dissident groups in Bangladesh--some with arms--or of ambitious military officers dissatisfied with the present regime.

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[REDACTED] Zia and the titular head of the government, President Sayem, have gone to Colombo to attend the nonaligned summit conference--a reflection of their confidence in their positions.

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SOUTH AFRICA: Uneasy Calm

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[] No major racial violence was reported yesterday in the three black townships near Cape Town where two days of rioting occurred earlier this week.

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[] Nearly two dozen student leaders from three campuses for "coloreds" (mulattoes) near Cape Town have been arrested following the clash on Thursday between police and some 600 students staging a protest march. Although there appear to have been no student casualties, the campuses remain tense.

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[] According to press reports, South African authorities responded to the latest rioting by quietly detaining a number of leading blacks suspected of belonging to the banned African National Congress. The South African police commissioner recently asserted that this group might be partly responsible for the disorders. The riots in Soweto last week, unlike the largely spontaneous violence there in June, resulted from organized efforts by black militants. []

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